



**Spring 2007**

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[www.homelandsecurity.ky.gov](http://www.homelandsecurity.ky.gov)



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**KENTUCKIANS URGED TO PREPARE FOR  
SPRING STORM SEASON**

Emergencies can range from the inconvenient to the devastating, but every Kentuckian can take simple preparedness steps in advance to minimize the impact on our families and communities. That is why, this Spring, the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security is urging the Commonwealth's families and businesses to make an emergency plan and to get a disaster supply kit to be better prepared for the unexpected. Springtime in Kentucky can produce severe storms with damaging winds, tornadoes, hail, and flooding, but Kentucky's family emergency preparedness website, [www.ProtectYourFamily.ky.gov](http://www.ProtectYourFamily.ky.gov), provides easy, common sense, ideas that can help.

"By taking some simple steps to make an emergency plan and get a disaster supply kit, Kentuckians will be better prepared if an emergency occurs," said (Ret) Maj. Alecia Webb-Edgington, director of the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security. "By logging on to [www.ProtectYourFamily.ky.gov](http://www.ProtectYourFamily.ky.gov), you will have the information you need right at your fingertips."

Every Kentuckian should plan in advance what they will do in an emergency. Below are a few items that should be included in any plan:

- Designate an out-of-state contact in the case of downed communication lines
- Know your region's potential disasters and how you will be notified
- Find out emergency plans at work, daycare, and school
- Create an evacuation plan

After a disaster, local officials and relief workers will be on the scene, but may not be able to reach everyone immediately. An emergency supply kit can help your family stay safe and be more comfortable during and after an emergency. Below are a few items that should be included in any kit:

- Three-Day Water Supply
- Three-Day Non-perishable Food Supply
- First Aid Kit
- Non-Prescription Drugs
- Tools and Supplies
- Clothing and Bedding

For more information on specific weather preparedness suggestions, visit [www.ProtectYourFamily.ky.gov](http://www.ProtectYourFamily.ky.gov).

## Highlights of National Activities

### **Ready Campaign Releases Spanish Language Public Service Announcements (PSAs)**

In January, the Ready Campaign and the Advertising Council released Spanish-language PSAs to raise awareness among Spanish-speaking households about the need to be prepared for emergencies. Citizen Corps Councils that are interested in localizing these PSAs can email [ready@dhs.gov](mailto:ready@dhs.gov) for more information. In addition, the campaign's Listo website, [www.listo.gov](http://www.listo.gov), has been updated with new emergency preparedness resources, including special preparedness information for senior citizens and individuals with disabilities, as well as online videos.

### **PETS Act: Include Animals in Disaster Planning**

Many people refuse to leave their pets behind in an emergency, endangering the lives of pet owners and rescuers. The Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act, passed October 6, 2006, to avoid animal related challenges similar to those faced during Katrina. The PETS Act expands on current requirements that cities and States submit detailed disaster preparedness plans to qualify for FEMA funding, by requiring State and local emergency preparedness authorities to include households with pets or service animals in their planning.

### **Teen CERT Training**

The Department of Homeland Security, Office of Grants and Training announced in January the certification of the AWR-188, entitled Teen Community Emergency Response Training. A panel of subject matter experts reviewed the course for content and structure and deemed it appropriate for certification. AWR-188 has adequately completed the Course Review Process and may be delivered in the revised format. The course will be listed in the registry of approved courses as published by the Office of Grants and Training.

## Highlights of State Activities

### Neighborhood Watch/Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)

The Kentucky Office of Homeland Security, in partnership with the Kentucky Crime Prevention Coalition will be hosting a Neighborhood Watch/VIPS Train the Trainer on April 10 from 10 am-2:45 pm at the Elizabethtown Police Department. For additional information please visit [www.kycrimeprevention.com](http://www.kycrimeprevention.com).

### NEW Kentucky Neighborhood Watch Signs



The Kentucky Office of Homeland Security, in partnership with the Kentucky Crime Prevention Coalition has developed a Kentucky Neighborhood Watch Sign. The sign is available to registered Neighborhood Watch Groups free of charge. For additional information please visit [www.kycrimeprevention.com](http://www.kycrimeprevention.com).

### 2007 Youth Crime Prevention Conference

Over 75 students from across Kentucky attended the 2007 Kentucky Youth Crime Prevention Conference held in Ft. Mitchell on February 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. The conference was sponsored by the Kentucky Crime Prevention Coalition through its Youth Crime Watch of Kentucky project.

The conference provided workshops on topics such as “Student Patrols”, “Crime Stoppers”, “Conflict Resolution”, “Bullying Prevention”, “Homeland Security” and “Internet Safety – My Space”. Students from Bates Middle School in Danville performed their “Meth O D Drama Presentation” that was well received by all in attendance.

Students received ideas on programs they could take back to their local schools to make them safer and tips on how they can get involved to make a difference.

Youth Crime Watch is a program similar to Neighborhood Watch that is school based. Students take ownership of the school through their volunteer activities.

### Preparedness for Individuals with Special Needs a Top Priority

In Kentucky, recent Census data indicates that nearly 1 in 3 Kentuckians are designated with a disability status. For this reason, the Kentucky Council on Developmental Disabilities, Department for Community Based Services, Kentucky Division of Emergency Management, Kentucky Department for Aging and Independent Living, and the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security, have teamed up to integrate the various needs of the Commonwealth’s special needs population in the emergency planning process.

On January 9, 2007, the agencies hosted a Summit in Frankfort to look at Kentucky’s emergency planning processes and identify how they may be strengthened with regard to individuals with disabilities and the elderly. The agencies are now assessing that information and will be submitting a report in the coming months.

## Highlights of Regional Activities

### Churches Spreading the Preparedness Message

Emergencies can range from the inconvenient to the devastating. But families and businesses can take some simple steps in advance to minimize the impact on our communities. Recent events here in Kentucky such as tornadoes, floods and even train derailments, coupled with national events such as Hurricane Katrina and Rita, underscore the importance of ensuring that our families, businesses, schoolchildren and special needs and vulnerable populations, have the resources they need to be prepared for the unexpected. Congregations across the state are partnering with the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security, Governor's Office for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, Kentucky Area Development Districts and Regional Citizen Corps Councils to help spread Kentucky's preparedness message: "Avoid the Panic Button: Protect Your Family."

### Citizen Corps Volunteers Participating in *Frankfort Under Fire*

On Tuesday, March 6, 2007, the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security, Kentucky Division of Emergency Management, and the KCTCS/State Fire Commission, hosted an emergency response drill in Frankfort. The tabletop exercise tested the region's emergency response to a simulated hostage incident at a state office building.

The tabletop exercise examined the area's use of a unified command system, the interface among local, state, and federal agencies during a domestic incident, assessed the capability of the Fair Oaks Complex personnel to implement a continuity of operations plan during an emergency, and will assess the capability of on-scene responders to conduct site security. There were 15 Community Emergency Response Team members that are Fair Oaks state employees that participated in the exercise.

## Best Practices

### **Purchase Area Development District Citizen Corps**

The Purchase Area Development District Citizen Corps is currently planning Town Hall meetings in each of the eight counties in conjunction with local law enforcement, health departments, Emergency Management, Fire/Rescue and the Red Cross to discuss disaster preparedness.

**We are currently looking for best practices to share across the Commonwealth.**

Please email your best practices to Jaime Shipley, [Jaime.shipley@ky.gov](mailto:Jaime.shipley@ky.gov)

## Lessons Learned

**We are currently looking for lessons learned to share across the Commonwealth.**

Please email your lessons learned to Jaime Shipley, [Jaime.shipley@ky.gov](mailto:Jaime.shipley@ky.gov)